

**Improving Access in Our Community  
Council President Scott Peters, First District  
For the La Jolla Light, November 2006**

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) to remove physical and legal barriers to the disabled. The Act called for businesses and municipalities to make all facilities, goods and services accessible to the disabled.

The City of San Diego has made ADA compliance a priority through the renovation of city parks, libraries, community centers and other public buildings. City facilities feature wider doorways, automatic door-opening devices, accessible desks, counters and restrooms, and computer software to aid the visually impaired. The City also enforces accessibility requirements in private buildings through the building permitting process and by providing blue curbs to designate disabled parking in residential and business zones.

Another way the City removes barriers to the disabled is by creating “curb cuts” on city streets. These corner ramps allow those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility to navigate our streets safely and conveniently. The benefits of these curb cuts extend beyond the disabled community. Families with strollers and small children, dog walkers, joggers and pedestrians have found these ramps to improve the safety and quality of city streets.

Each year, Council District One receives a portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) funds the City of San Diego receives to support social service groups and older communities. This year our CDBG funds are allocated among 131 projects across San Diego, with the largest grant going to the curb cut program.

The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council partners with the City of San Diego to provide the skilled labor to upgrade sidewalk corners. This year, 10 to 12 new curb ramps will be installed across the First District, with a strong focus on La Jolla and University City. We recently celebrated the completion of a curb cut project at the corner of Cliffridge Avenue and Scenic Place, which will improve access to the YMCA and Torrey Pines Elementary School.

I have made ADA access a priority in my grant allocations this year. In addition to the curb cut program, I will help the City’s Park and Recreation Department improve access to city parks. Other recipients of District One CDBG funds include an affordable housing project for members of the deaf community and a local community center where job training for disabled San Diegans is provided.

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Looking for an exciting and innovative way to give back to our La Jolla community?  
Consider sponsoring the La Jolla Shores Underwater Map project. The tactile and

interactive display will depict the features of the La Jolla Ecological Reserve and the dozens of species that live there.

The map will be made of crushed glass formed into a beautiful mosaic, and will be placed along the walkway between the comfort station and the playground at Kellogg Park. This durable and educational map will attract students, divers, tourists and residents who visit La Jolla Shores.

For more information and to donate to the map project, please visit their website, [www.LaJollaShoresMap.com](http://www.LaJollaShoresMap.com).